

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Flexer and Rep. Blumenthal, Vice-Chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Morin-Bello, Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco, and Distinguished Members of the GAE Committee

I am writing with unconditional support of: S.B. No. 1064, H.B. No. 5004, S.J. No. 29, H.J. No. 1, and conditional support of H.B. No. 6693 and of S.B. No. 1057.

During the 2022 election, CT voters overwhelmingly supported early voting. To allow more voter accessibility, I would like to see the legislature increase the number of voting days to at least 2 weeks (current average in the nation is 23) and should include several options in timing- early morning, evenings and at least 2 weekends.

In addition, the need for accessible locations for the elderly, disabled, working families, and voters using public transportation should be a priority. Same day registration during the early voting period and no excuse absentee voting should also be allowed to increase the number of eligible voters to participate. We should be trying to help those voters that have the most difficulty in accessing the polls. The number of locations should be based on the number of age-eligible voters.

Adequate funding should be provided for all early voting changes as well as comprehensive public education, so we have a well-informed voting public.

As far as the conditional support above, I support HB6693, with the recommendation that the public disclosure of absentee ballot applications is unnecessary and is of no benefit to the voter. I do support allowing a period of limited ballot curing which decreases disenfranchisement and therefore increases voter representation. I conditionally support SB 1057 if there are at least 2 weeks of early voting and funding is provided for educating voters about early voting.

By giving voters options, which is what they have asked for and what they deserve, we can increase accessibility for all voters to participate in the democratic process.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Denning

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